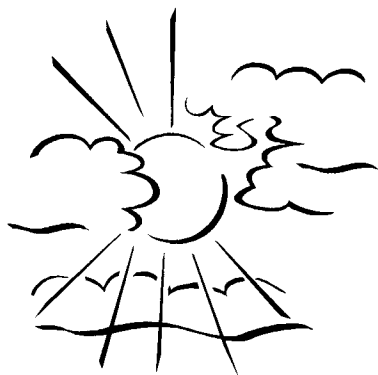


***Department
of
Human
Services***

Prepared by the
DHS Office of
Communications
(517) 373-7394



*Important story at this spot

Articles in Today's Clips

Friday, July 1, 2005

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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SENATE PASSES ITS VERSION OF SCHOOL SECURITY

The Senate version of legislation aimed at minimizing the chance that a sex offender can come into contact with children in school passed the chamber nearly unanimously on Thursday.

Only one bill in the package, SB 129, got any opposition, with just one no vote, when the Senate did not add an amendment that would let a convicted offender younger than 25 and attending college live with his or her parents within the zone during school breaks.

The Senate action followed by one day the House approving its package of bills.

The general theme of the of package is to both ensure that background checks of school personnel are conducted, so that no one convicted on criminal sexual offenses is hired by a school, and prohibits a person convicted of sexual crimes from living, working or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school.

But the package uses the state's sex offender registry to determine who would be prohibited from the so-called safety zone, and because individuals who may have been convicted as youths of indecent exposure or for consensual sex are included in that list, the package has troubled some lawmakers.

Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) said she was willing to support the package to provide protection for children, but the testimony of individuals whose lives have been made difficult because of their presence on the sex offenders list for non-heinous was "compelling."

"I don't want to put children at risk," she said, "but I don't want to ruin lives because of consensual acts committed when they were young."

SB 601, SB 609, SB 610, SB 611 and SB 612 require criminal background checks of any individual employed by a school, allow for the salary of teachers convicted of sexual offenses to be escrowed while they undergo tenure proceedings, as well require those teachers to report convictions.

SB 129 requires that no person convicted of a crime on the registry or on probation for such a crime live, work or loiter within 1,000 feet of a school. The bill does not affect those persons already living within 1,000 feet of a school, though it would prohibit such a person from initiating contact with a minor.

Also not affected would be individuals under 19, attending school and living with their parents. Sen. Burton Leland (D-Detroit) attempted unsuccessfully to boost that age to 25 if they are attending college and want to stay with their parents during breaks. The number of people affected by this would be very small, he said, and it would be better for them to under their parent's supervision than living somewhere else.

But Sen. Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond), sponsor of the bill, said the amendment would "gut the bill" because it would open the measure up to individuals who had committed more serious crimes being allowed near a school. And Sen. Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) said some exemptions already exist for those convicted of consensual matters, and this would open the possibility of allowing those convicted of more severe crimes, such as criminal sexual conduct, being permitted to live near a school.

SB 613, SB 614 and SB 615 require owners and employees of child care centers to report charged crimes and convictions, and the Senate adopted an amendment that would require background checks of family members of the owners of small day-care centers that operate out of a home. Without that requirement, said Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Troy) a large loophole could exist in the law.

SB 605, SB 606, SB 607 and SB 608 set sentencing guidelines for people convicted of taking employment or volunteer assignments where children are present, changes sentencing guidelines to reflect increased penalties, require individuals on the registry to notify police when they move and allow certain kinds of evidence in cases, respectively.

GRANHOLM ANNOUNCES FIRST CHILD EMAIL REGISTRY

Beginning Friday, parents in Michigan will be able to limit the amount of inappropriate email their children receive, as Governor Jennifer Granholm announced Thursday the completion of the Michigan Children's Protection Registry.

The registry, operated by the Public Service Commission, provides bulk emailing companies a list of addresses they may not contact with advertisements for materials that would be inappropriate or illegal for children. Violating the list a first time is a misdemeanor and a second or further time is a felony.

Ms. Granholm said the registry was a step toward protecting children while they are online. "I am regularly horrified by what comes in over email," she said at a press conference to announce the registry, www.michigan.gov/protectmichild.

"We can now rest a little easier know our children would not be faced, if we chose to register them, with an onslaught of ads for material that may be inappropriate or addictive," she said.

Among the ads that would be prohibited to those on the list are pornography, alcohol, tobacco, medications, illegal drugs, firearms and fireworks.

Parents can register the email addresses of their children with the list beginning at 7 a.m. Friday. Any inappropriate email received to that address after 30 days can be submitted to the attorney general as a formal complaint, a process also available through the website, or can also be the subject of a civil suit brought by the parents.

PSC Chair Peter Lark said adults could add their own emails to the listing as well, but said those addresses could not be the subject of a state investigation or a civil suit.

And he said the list does not remove all need for parents to track their child's use of the Internet. "No system of course is foolproof and parents must be vigilant and monitor what their children view on the Internet," he said.

The list is free to parents, with revenue coming from the .7-cent fee for each name checked against the list. The fee is split between Unspam Registry Services, the Chicago company that built the list; the attorney general; and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, which houses the PSC.

Mr. Lark said he expected the listing would generate some \$200,000 annually, noting that senders would have to check their lists against the registry at least monthly to be sure they had no violations.

The list would not, however, expose children's email addresses to those senders, Mr. Lark said. Once email addresses are added to the registry, they are encrypted so that only the person who entered the address has access to the information. State and Unspam employees do not have authorization to view the list and computers handle comparing senders' lists to the registry.

Mr. Lark said the state so far has been successful at contacting bulk email senders and getting their cooperation to have their lists scrubbed by the registry, but he said the effort now will need to be making parents aware of the list.

State opens e-mail registry for kids

The Associated Press

LANSING — Starting today, parents can sign their children up for what Michigan officials say is the nation's first registry aimed at keeping spammers from sending children e-mail relating to pornography, illegal or prescription drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, firearms and fireworks. The Web address is: www.michigan.gov/protectmichild

"From my perspective as a parent, I'm horrified by what comes in" to her three children's e-mail accounts, Gov. Jennifer Granholm said during a Thursday news conference. "We want to protect kids from these ... assaults."

Signing up for the registry is free, and parents soon will be able to add their children's instant message IDs, mobile phone numbers, fax numbers and pager numbers to the registry to keep children from being contacted through those as well. Both parents and schools will be able to register children's e-mail addresses.

Senders must comply with the new law by Aug. 1. They face criminal and civil penalties for violating the law.

Although some Internet safety experts have said such anti-spam laws have been difficult to enforce and others worry the lists will give hackers a way to get access to a large database of children, Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman Peter Lark said safeguards being put in place will keep the registry secure.

Because the e-mail addresses and other information will be encrypted, "nobody will know that the actual e-mail address is," including the Chicago company handling the database, Lark said.

Originally published July 1, 2005

Antispam registry to shield kids from smut

Offers for drugs, gambling also off-limits in state law

July 1, 2005

BY CHRIS CHRISTOFF
FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU CHIEF

Starting today, the state will help parents block ads for pornography, drugs and gambling that are sent to their kids via e-mail.

And it can prosecute spammers who violate the new law, although tracking them down could be tricky.

The children's e-mail addresses on the state's free Protect MI Child Registry will be off-limits to online sellers of porn, tobacco, alcohol, fireworks and other illegal products.

The registry is similar to the national do-not-call list that allows consumers to sign up to block telemarketers.

"This will make it just a little easier to make sure our children will not be faced with daily assaults of those who want to sell products that are dangerous, illegal, addictive and inappropriate," Gov. Jennifer Granholm said Thursday in announcing the registry's start-up.

The registry is operated by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Chairman Peter Lark said Michigan is the first state to offer such a service.

"It's free; it doesn't cost a dime," Lark said. "I recommend it."

Here's how the registry works:

Families can file their children's e-mail addresses with the state at www.michigan.gov/protectmichild. The ban on using an address will take effect 30 days after the address is filed and is good for three years or until the child reaches 18.

E-mail addresses in the registry are off-limits to those who offer sexual products, alcohol, firearms, fireworks, gambling and illegal or prescription drugs. The registry is managed by a private company, Unspam Registry Services of Chicago.

Granholm said Unspam will keep scrambled versions of the e-mails so they cannot be stolen and used. She said the registry eventually will include cell phone, fax and pager numbers.

The service will be paid for by commercial e-mailers who will pay a fee of 0.7 cents per e-mail address to match their e-mail lists with addresses on the registry. If they don't use the service, they risk sending improper e-mails to children.

According to Internet spam-fighting organizations, only a tiny fraction of people who get spam look at it, and even fewer purchase what is being sold. Spammers rely on sending enormous volumes of e-mail, often as many as 1 or 2 million pieces a day. Spending almost anything to check the names on their lists against a registry would be a huge disincentive to sending spam.

And, under Michigan's program, senders must check the registry every month to obtain new listings.

Of the fees that will be collected, 60% are to go to Unspam -- its only pay from the state for running the program. Some of the money also will go to the attorney general to enforce the law.

Families who receive prohibited e-mails can file complaints with the Attorney General's Office. Violating the registry is a misdemeanor on the first offense, and a felony on the second offense. Families also could pursue civil court action against illegal spammers.

Allison Pierce, spokeswoman for the attorney general, said the office employs experienced Internet investigators.

"They're very talented," Pierce said. "We have ways of tracking folks down, no matter who they are."

Unspam Chief Executive Mike Prince said that even spammers who route their ads through foreign countries can't evade the law if they are based in the United States. And, he said, most are.

According to a survey by the international Register of Known Spam Operations (ROKSO), 80% of spam comes from 200 spam operations. All but 47 are based in the United States.

And businesses that route e-mail through foreign countries can be tracked down, he said.

It already is illegal to solicit minors for such things as pornography, gambling or alcohol.

"The problem is, there was no way to make people comply with the law," Prince said. "And it gives legitimate senders a way to not target kids."

Lark, the head of the Public Service Commission, said he believes the cost of screening names will discourage spammers from e-mailing into Michigan altogether.

"We don't know. These are uncharted waters," Lark said.

Contact CHRIS CHRISTOFF at 517-372-8660 or christoff@freepress.com.

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Michigan, Utah laws aim to protect children from spam

By David Eggert / Associated Press

LANSING -- Michigan and another state are on the verge of trying to block porn and other inappropriate messages sent to children through e-mail, but critics question how the laws will be enforced and predict they could have unintended consequences.

Michigan and Utah have until Friday to create and operate registries of e-mail addresses similar to "do-not-call" lists. Businesses will have to buy copies of the registries and face prison time and fines if they fail to remove from their lists any e-mail addresses that parents submit.

The registries also can include instant messaging addresses, cell phones and pager numbers.

Parry Aftab, an Internet safety expert with WiredSafety.org, said the laws were well-intentioned but flawed.

"Anytime anyone starts collecting lists of children, it's subject to hacking and misuse," Aftab said. "The last thing I want is anyone to have a large database of children."

As with other Internet laws, critics say the registries probably won't have much effect -- largely because anti-spam laws have been difficult to enforce. Spam often originates from outside the country and from other states.

State Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, said that although the Michigan law can't completely solve the problem, it's a step in the right direction. Establishing a state-monitored list gives the state the legal power to reach across state lines and nab violators.

The Institute for Spam and Internet Public Safety warned this week that commercial e-mailers don't know about the laws.

"We've talked with several top-tier e-mail marketing firms and e-mail service providers, and they were all just stunned to learn that they need to start scrubbing their mailing lists against these registries next month or face criminal sanctions," said Anne Mitchell, the group's president.

In Michigan, parents can begin adding e-mails and other electronic device numbers to the list Friday. The registry will be accessible through the state's Web site: <http://www.mich.gov>

Expert: Child fought to live

Burns no accident, doctor tells court

July 1, 2005

BY L.L. BRASIER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Tiny Jasmine Phillips was deliberately placed in a tub of scalding water, held there and was likely screaming and struggling to get out, according to testimony Thursday in Oakland County Circuit Court.

"This child was placed in a standing body of hot water by intent," Dr. Marc Cullen, director of the burn unit at Children's Hospital of Michigan, told jurors. "This wasn't just a dip."

Jasmine, 21 months old, died Dec. 19 from burns due to scalding. Letitia Johnson, 28, the girlfriend of Jasmine's father, is charged with first-degree murder in the case.

Cullen, who did not treat Jasmine but was called by prosecutors as an expert witness, discounted Johnson's claim that chemicals she used to clean the tub caused the deadly burns.

Cullen, an expert on scalding wounds, examined photos of the toddler after she died and said the uniformity and degree of the burns showed the child was in the tub for more than a moment, causing excruciating pain. Police say the water temperature at the home, taken from the gauge on the hot water tank after the child died, was 148 degrees. She was burned from the waist down.

Some of the jurors flinched as photos of Jasmine's injuries were shown in court. Johnson had no reaction.

Outside the courtroom, Cullen said Jasmine was likely screaming throughout the scalding.

Johnson, through her attorney, Diana Bare, hopes to convince jurors that the burning was an accident, caused by a distracted woman caring for too many children.

But prosecution witness Delonya Tucker, a jailhouse informant, told jurors Thursday afternoon that Johnson admitted to her at the Oakland County Jail in the days after the killing that she hated the child and wanted her out of the picture.

She said Johnson was jealous of the relationship her on-again, off-again boyfriend, Louie Phillips, had with Jasmine's mother, Jamila Lawrence. And she was angry about having to take care of the child in the Orion Township apartment she shared with Phillips. So on the night of Dec. 18, she filled the tub with scalding water.

"She said she was holding her down by her shoulders. She said the baby was screaming and hollering and trying to get out -- she was pulling her on her clothes," Tucker said. "I told Letitia you are a cold-blooded person to kill that little baby like that and she said, 'yes, I know.' "

Tucker is serving a 4 1/2 -year prison sentence for armed robbery.

The case could go to the jury as early as today. If convicted of first-degree murder Johnson, the mother of seven, will go to prison for the rest of her life.

Child abuse everywhere

I was glad to see the June 17 article, "Bishops vow to protect kids." However, I was shocked to read in the June 14 Detroit News that our state does not provide the same protection to students in our public schools ("Bill targets abusive educators").

Lawmakers are only now intro-

ducing legislation to require background checks on all paid school employees and prevent anyone convicted of a sex offense from being hired.

There are thousands more young Michiganians who come into contact with teachers, coaches, aides and volunteers in our public schools than ever have had contact with a Catholic priest. The reality is it is rampant in our society and can be found most every where one looks: neighborhoods, public schools, youth sports leagues, our families.

T. D. NENNEAU
Flint

Friday, July 1, 2005

The Detroit News

Families abuse Medicaid help Congress wants to end strategies of shifting financial assets of ailing seniors to qualify for care.

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar / Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON -- Congress is considering a crackdown on financial planning strategies increasingly favored by middle-class families to shift the cost of nursing-home care for elderly parents onto the federal government.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, denounced the practices as "legal shenanigans" and vowed to help stop maneuvers he said were turning Medicaid into an asset protection program, instead of what it was supposed to be -- an insurer of last resort for elderly people too poor to afford care.

Under present law, Medicaid, the federal program providing health care benefits to the poor, covers nursing-home costs if residents can show they do not have sufficient assets to pay for their own care -- which experts say averages between \$50,000 and \$70,000 a year.

As costs have risen, it has become common for families to transfer elderly relatives' assets to others -- often to adult children or to grandchildren -- through gifts or other legal devices to keep the assets instead of letting them be used for nursing-home care.

Tightening the rules could save Medicaid between \$1 billion and \$2 billion over five years, Grassley said, though Medicaid's long-term care bill is projected at \$290 billion over the next five years.

The Finance Committee heard from one woman who lives in a continuing care community and who complained that some of her neighbors had figured out how to shield hundreds of thousands of dollars to qualify for Medicaid.

Pundt, 71, of Parkville, Md., fears her neighbors' gains could be her loss, because the fees for residents who pay their own way -- as she does -- go up because Medicaid payments do not cover the full cost of residential care.

For most families, nursing home bills would quickly wipe out prospects for an inheritance. Yet to qualify for Medicaid coverage, a person's assets cannot exceed \$2,000. (The value of a home and one car are not counted.)

That creates incentives for the elderly to shift their savings and stocks to other relatives. Laws try to penalize families who shift assets by delaying or denying Medicaid coverage based on the amount of money transferred.

Transfers within 36 months before a person applies for Medicaid can trigger the coverage penalty.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2005

Contact: Maureen Sorbet
or Stepheni Schlinker,
517-373-7394

Granholm Administration helps to expand child day care for low-income families in 61 counties

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Marianne Udow today announced \$661,371 in grants to licensed or registered child care providers who serve children from low-income families. The 173 grants range in amounts from \$1,000-\$15,000 and includes start up grants for 30 new providers.

“Quality care can help ensure our children get the great start in life they deserve,” said Granholm.

The grant program, called Enhanced Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP), is funded by the DHS and is aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of child care in Michigan communities. The Michigan 4C (Community Coordinated Child Care) Association, a partner with the DHS in helping public assistance recipients stay in the work force, administers the grant program.

Grants were awarded to start new providers in 18 counties and for proposals at existing providers that address equipment, computers, and resources to build child care capacity, support childhood development at care centers, and improve staff knowledge and caregiver techniques. EQUIP grants help child care providers develop service during afternoon, evening, and weekend work shifts, which is critical for working families, and ways to care for infants and children with special needs. Provider start-up grants help communities better meet the needs of their low-income families.

“The grants support low-income families with children as adults work toward financial independence,” said Udow.

Working collaboratively with the DHS, the Michigan 4C Association regularly awards EQUIP grants to increase licensed child care capacity across the state. In February the DHS awarded nearly \$200,000 to 60 child care providers. From fiscal year 1998 through the current funding cycle, the DHS has distributed more than \$7.6 million in EQUIP grants funds. A list of current grantees follows. For more information on EQUIP grantees in any county, contact the Michigan 4C Association at (800) 950-4171.

See the attachment for current grantees. Read more on child care services at www.michigan.gov/dhs under “Day Care”.

###

Start Up Grants

County	Program Name	Last Name	First Name	City	Grant
Clinton		VanLooy	Cindy	East Lansing	\$1,445
Delta	Escanaba Community Day Care	Dupras	Debora	Escanaba	\$15,000
Eaton	First Lutheran Preschool	Johnson	Sandra	Charlotte	\$15,000
Genesee		Poole	Shaqunda	Flint	\$3,073
Genesee		Graziano	Rebecca	Swartz Creek	\$3,450
Gratiot		Hollenbeck	Heather	Ithaca	\$3,471
Houghton		Trehwella	Teresa	Hancock	\$3,500
Ingham	100 Acre Wood Daycare	Pitchford	Jackie	Holt	\$15,000
Ingham		Fedewa	Sara	Lansing	\$1,720
Kalamazoo	Busy Bees Learning Center	Topham	Dani	Portage	\$14,981
Kalamazoo		Easley	Thomas & Katie	Kalamazoo	\$2,233
Kent	Childrens Garden Childcare & Learning Center	Wodarski	Brenda	Walker	\$15,000
Kent	Brilliant Beginnings CDC	Bentley	Kristen	Grand Rapids	\$15,000
Kent		Dulaney	Jeanette	Sparta	\$3,500
Kent		Burman	Michele	Cedar Springs	\$3,500
Kent		Cerriteno	Rebekah	Grand Rapids	\$3,220
Kent		Duch	Kimberly	Wyoming	\$3,485
Lake		Guy	Teresa	Baldwin	\$3,500
Livingston	Lasting Impressions	Pace	Katie	Brighton	\$14,923
Macomb		Yousif	Carline	Macomb Twp	\$3,500
Marquette	West Branch Community CCC	Koski	Debra	Gwinn	\$15,000
Ottawa		Hammond	Kerrie	Zeeland	\$3,487
St. Clair		Nasheed	Annesah	Port Huron Twp	\$3,500
St. Joseph		Ellis	Tiffany	Sturgis	\$2,907
Washtenaw	Precious Ones Day Care	Specht	Stacy	Whitmore Lake	\$15,000
Washtenaw		Clarey	Sommer	Ann Arbor	\$1,588
Wayne	Rainbow Academy	Jackson	Diane	Detroit	\$15,000
Wayne		Raines-Saunders	LaRaisha	Detroit	\$3,500
Wayne		Adams	Linda	Detroit	\$1,560
Wayne		Knight	Samantha & Roderick	Detroit	\$3,146
					\$209,189

Grants to Child Care Providers

County	Program Name	Last Name	First Name	City	Grant	Project
Alcona	Kid's Kingdom	MacNeill	Teresa	Lincoln	\$2,048	outdoor equipment, indoor activities, computer
Alger		Miles	Jennifer	Munising	\$2,391	outdoor materials
Allegan		Martin	Michelle	Fennville	\$3,473	outdoor equipment, cots, computer
Allegan		McKellips	Amy	Fennville	\$2,443	storage, infant equipment, indoor activities
Allegan		McDonald	Anna	Allegan	\$3,488	indoor activities, ramps, infant & outdoor equipment
Allegan	Mancelona Day Care Center	Warner	Connie	Grand Junction	\$3,491	fence, outdoor equipment, computer
Alpena		Irish	Jennifer	Alpena	\$1,937	fence, outdoor equipment
Alpena		Plume	Miranda	Alpena	\$1,512	outdoor & infant equipment
Antrim		Almose	Christine	Mancelona	\$3,102	playground tables
Arenac		Rosebrugh	April	Standish	\$3,495	indoor activities, infant equipment
Barry		Haight	Jessica	Hastings	\$2,989	infant & outdoor equipment, fence, indoor activities
Barry		Barker	Karen	Delton	\$3,448	fence, outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities
Barry		Brew	Monica	Middleville	\$3,278	fence, outdoor equipment, indoor activities, storage
Bay		Emerson	Melissa	Bay City	\$3,498	indoor activities, outdoor & infant equipment, remodeling, cots
Benzie		Wade	Linda	Beulah	\$1,806	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Branch	SNAP	Webb	Susan	Quincy	\$3,495	outdoor equipment, rest mats
Calhoun		Walker	Amy	Battle Creek	\$3,500	computer, room dividers, outdoor equipment
Calhoun		Dale	Norma	Battle Creek	\$1,509	outdoor equipment
Cass		Clauser	Jody	Dowagiac	\$3,438	computer, outdoor equipment
Cass		Wade	Laura	Dowagiac	\$3,497	storage, indoor activities, beds, infant equipment
Charlevoix		Morgan	Deanna	Charlevoix	\$3,469	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Cheboygan		Jana	Penny	Cheboygan	\$3,500	outdoor & safety equipment, indoor activities
Cheboygan		Evans	Kristen	Cheboygan	\$3,498	computer, air purifier, outdoor equipment
Cheboygan		Bishop	Yuri	Cheboygan	\$2,753	fence, outdoor & infant equipment
Chippewa		Ware	Jennifer	Sault Ste Marie	\$3,500	fence
Clinton		Moore	Kelly	St. Johns	\$3,500	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Crawford		Chatterton	Marilyn	Grayling	\$3,500	infant & outdoor equipment
Delta		Barron	Barbara	Gladstone	\$3,500	computer, ramp, fence, outdoor equipment, bed
Delta		Belongie	Barb	Escanaba	\$2,878	outdoor & infant equipment, computer, indoor activities
Eaton		Hall	Rebecca	Charlotte	\$3,422	classroom furniture, storage, indoor activities
Eaton		Rohdy	Franca	Grand Ledge	\$3,488	computer, safety, outdoor & infant equipment
Emmet		Givens	Kimberley	Pellston	\$3,500	infant & outdoor equipment, storage, indoor activities
Emmet		Hofbauer	Tanya	Alanson	\$3,457	fence, outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities
Genesee		Walker	Monica	Flint	\$1,211	indoor activities, cots
Genesee		Perea	Theresa	Flint	\$3,347	computer, indoor activities
Gogebic	Lighthouse Faith Center	Vilgos	Tammy	Ironwood	\$3,452	infant equipment, fence, storage
Gogebic	The Ark	Hellman	Merrie Beth	Bessemer	\$2,819	carpeting, classroom furniture
Grand Traverse		Anderson	Debra	Interlochen	\$3,498	indoor activities, outdoor equipment
Grand Traverse		Corbin	Donna	Kingsley	\$2,915	outdoor equipment, fence
Grand Traverse		St. John	Carrie	Interlochen	\$3,481	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Grand Traverse		Shanley	Robyn	Traverse City	\$2,927	outdoor equipment, indoor activities, rest mats
Hillsdale		McAllister	Michelle	Hillsdale	\$2,445	storage, indoor activities, outdoor equipment, printer
Houghton	Hancock Elementary School	Neal	Wendy & Terry	Laurium	\$3,405	computer, indoor activities, resource material
Houghton		Walls	Melanie	Hancock	\$3,422	indoor activities, outdoor equipment, storage
Ingham		King	Amanda	East Lansing	\$3,454	egress window, outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities

Grants to Child Care Providers

Ingham		Whitman	Melanie	East Lansing	\$2,593	egress window, remodeling, vacuum
Ingham		Lockett	Coire	East Lansing	\$3,138	indoor activities, infant & safety equipment
Ingham		Banks	Lonnie	Lansing	\$3,179	egress window, remodeling, computer
Ingham		Medes	Kristy	Holt	\$3,500	fence, outdoor & infant equipment
Ingham		Kowalski	Tammy	Stockbridge	\$3,489	fence, infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Ionia		Kubiak	Julie	Ionia	\$3,500	fence, infant & outdoor equipment, computer, storage
Ionia		Lumbert	Melissa	Ionia	\$3,461	fence, indoor activities, outdoor equipment, storage
Iosco		Goodrich	Sharon	Lake Odessa	\$1,166	outdoor equipment
Isabella		Schlagel	Betti Jo	East Tawas	\$3,495	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Jackson		Willoughby	Danielle	Shepherd	\$2,680	fence, infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Jackson		Tuszynski	Therese	Concord	\$3,492	storage, indoor activities, outdoor equipment
Kalamazoo		Curtis	Jennifer	Spring Arbor	\$3,385	infant & outdoor equipment, storage, indoor activities
Kalamazoo		Hensley	Julie	Portage	\$3,500	egress window, indoor activities, air purifier
Kalamazoo		Harper	Deah	Portage	\$3,500	fence
Kalamazoo		Wanamaker	Dawn	Kalamazoo	\$3,411	fence, outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities, resource material
Kalamazoo		Jackson	Andrea	Kalamazoo	\$3,349	computer, indoor activities, outdoor equipment
Kalamazoo		Taylor	Catherine	Kalamazoo	\$3,500	fence
Kalamazoo	Child Development Center - KL	Pease	Jennifer	Kalamazoo	\$3,440	outdoor equipment, security system
Kalamazoo	Child Development Center - Cork	Hemler	Kami	Kalamazoo	\$3,235	outdoor equipment
Kalamazoo		Griffith	Tina	Vicksburg	\$3,156	fence, computer
Kalamazoo		Huey	Deborah	Portage	\$2,098	fence
Kalamazoo	Hines, Daniela	Litjens	Daniela	Portage	\$1,490	mulch
Kent		Ricker	Kimberly	Cedar Springs	\$3,500	outdoor equipment, beds
Kent		Oden	Angela	Cedar Springs	\$3,499	indoor activities, outdoor & infant equipment, computer, sofa sleeper
Kent		Lyons	Therese	Caledonia	\$3,500	beds, storage, outdoor equipment
Kent	Kingdomcare Early Learning Center	Smith	Carmen	Grand Rapids	\$3,472	infant & outdoor equipment, computer, indoor activities
Kent		Andrews	Haley	Plainfield Twp	\$3,500	fence, infant equipment, indoor activities, beds
Kent		Lockton	Tammy	Grand Rapids	\$3,500	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Kent		Traxler	Sherri	Sparta	\$1,932	remodeling, infant & outdoor equipment, storage
Kent		Burman	Michele	Cedar Springs	\$3,500	computer, indoor activities, carpet, storage, infant & outdoor equipment
Kent	Locke Street Group Home	Miller	Kathryn	Grandville	\$2,229	air purifiers, outdoor equipment
Kent	Kiddie Korner Day Care	Uganski	Marna	Grand Rapids	\$3,484	storage, parent resources
Kent	Carrie Forbes Child Care Center	Green	Adam	Grand Rapids	\$3,480	sink, outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Kent		Gladding	JoAnn	Grand Rapids	\$3,500	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities, storage
Lenawee		Dusseau	Deborah	Tecumseh	\$3,443	outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities, computer
Mackinac		Cook	Laura	St. Ignace	\$2,993	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities, computer
Mackinac		Bigger	Christina	St. Ignace	\$3,463	fence, outdoor equipment, parenting books
Mackinaw		Davis	Angela	Engadine	\$3,468	outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities, parent resources
Macomb	Early Learning Academy	Lis	Danuta	Clinton Township	\$3,500	indoor activities, outdoor equipment
Macomb		Hunter	Sandra	Sterling Heights	\$2,014	outdoor equipment, storage
Manistee		Ray	Donna	Wellston	\$3,067	indoor activities, outdoor equipment
Marquette		DePetro	Cynthia	Marquette	\$3,240	infant & outdoor equipment, storage
Marquette		Beauchamp	Jackie	Marquette	\$3,500	egress window, remodeling, infant equipment, indoor activities
Marquette		Emanuelson	Christy	Ishpeming	\$3,500	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Marquette		Scanlon	Carrie	Ishpeming	\$3,394	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Marquette		Miller	Sara	Marquette	\$3,500	storage, outdoor & infant equipment

Grants to Child Care Providers

Mason		Forbes	Vicky Lynn	Ludington	\$3,493	computer, infant & outdoor equipment
Mason		Dold	Amiee	Scottville	\$3,500	fence, outdoor equipment, storage, cots
Midland		Robison	Diane	Coleman	\$3,499	indoor activities, infant equipment
Midland		Pedlar	Lori	Hemlock	\$3,478	infant equipment, indoor activities, storage
Monroe		Knapp	Nancy	Carleton	\$1,000	computer
Monroe		Kasper	Karen	Erie	\$3,500	air purifier, infant equipment, storage
Monroe		Worden	Tonya	Carleton	\$3,498	indoor activities, safety equipment
Monroe	Little House of Hugs III	McElvany	Jayne	Monroe	\$3,500	cots, storage, indoor activities
Montmorency		Cronk	Suzanne	Lewiston	\$3,500	safety & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Muskegon		Woods	Jody	Muskegon	\$3,330	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities, computer
Muskegon		Grasmeyer	Tricia	Muskegon	\$2,253	fence, outdoor equipment, printer
Muskegon	Tender Care Child Care	Mrozinski	Tamara	Muskegon	\$3,500	indoor activities
Muskegon		Yokubonus	Gretchen	Muskegon	\$1,069	fence
Newaygo		Bowen	Joanne	Grant	\$3,223	fence, outdoor equipment, beds
Newaygo		Robinson	Danielle	White Cloud	\$3,042	outdoor equipment
Newaygo		Badgero	Jennifer	Newaygo	\$3,500	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Newaygo		Smith	Tracie	Newaygo	\$2,759	indoor activities, infant & outdoor equipment
Oakland		Jones	Sharon	Oakland	\$3,270	infant equipment, computer, mulch, beds
Oakland		Fisher	Jacie	Auburn Hills	\$3,500	fence
Oakland		Parks	Lynette	Bloomfield Twp	\$3,500	egress window
Oceana		Burmeister	Lora	Shelby	\$3,136	infant equipment, indoor activities, computer, fence
Oceana	Child's Play Daycare Center	Monroe	Janet	Hart	\$3,451	outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Osceola		Lass	Sandra	Sears	\$2,018	outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities
Otsego		Knoth	Nancy	Gaylord	\$3,451	infant & outdoor equipment, storage, indoor activities
Otsego		Clear	Catherine	Johannesburg	\$2,448	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Ottawa		Wheeler	Lydia	Hudsonville	\$3,249	beds, outdoor equipment, indoor activities, computer
Ottawa		Ulery	Megan	Zeeland	\$3,500	remodeling, carpet, infant equipment
Presque Isle		Miller	Laura	Onaway	\$3,472	indoor activities, infant & outdoor equipment
Saginaw		Omar	Stephanie	Saginaw	\$3,500	ndoor activities, infant equipment, computer
Saginaw		Straight-Chavarria	Tammy	Saginaw	\$3,456	outdoor equipment, storage
Saginaw	Wee Care Christian Children's Center	Phillips	Rose	Saginaw	\$3,493	infant equipment, indoor activities, storage
Shiawassee	Kids Ink	Rann	Tammy	Owosso	\$3,410	indoor activities, infant equipment
St. Clair	Cornerstone Campus	Hayre	Michele	Port Huron	\$3,500	indoor activities, playground surfacing
St. Clair	Cozy Corner Child Care Center	VanBuskirk	Chris	Kimball	\$3,193	toilets, blocks, classroom furniture
St. Joseph		Sheteron	Christine	Centreville	\$3,500	infant equipment, indoor activities, storage, wood chips
Van Buren	Kidzone South Haven LLC	Eberle	Tamara	South Haven	\$3,412	indoor activities, storage
Washtenaw		Allen	Claudia	Ann Arbor	\$3,473	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Washtenaw		Dari	Nadia	Ann Arbor	\$3,188	indoor activities, infant & outdoor equipment, computer
Wayne		Brown	Jennifer	Belleville	\$3,500	indoor activities, infant equipment, storage
Wayne		Jones	Carmen	Detroit	\$3,193	indoor activities
Wayne		MacPhail	Debra	Dearborn Hgts	\$3,195	infant & outdoor equipment, indoor activities
Wayne	Denitra's Kiddie Korner	Walker	Denitra	Dearborn Hgts	\$3,500	bathroom, infant equipment
Wayne		Bostic	Jill	Detroit	\$3,474	playground surfacing, outdoor & infant equipment
Wayne		Douglas	Sirene	Detroit	\$3,500	indoor activities, cots, storage
Wayne		Lawrence	Doratha	Detroit	\$3,490	indoor activities, storage, infant equipment
Wayne		Jones	Brenda	Detroit	\$2,623	computer, infant equipment, indoor activities

Grants to Child Care Providers

Wayne	Allen-Hunter	Arleen	Detroit	\$3,429	indoor activities, storage
Wayne	Butler	Lisa	Highland Park	\$3,466	indoor activities, storage, resource material
Wayne	Dorman	Melissa	Taylor	\$3,500	storage, indoor activities
Wexford	Fryhover	Nicole	Manton	\$3,486	fence, outdoor & infant equipment, indoor activities, storage
Wexford	Slabaugh	Edith	Buckley	\$3,448	fence, outdoor equipment
Wexford	Hoaglund	Jennifer	Cadillac	\$3,500	indoor activities, outdoor equipment
				\$452,182	

PARENTING 101

Ask important questions when looking for day care

Need good day care? Consider the following: Is there a low staff turnover? Ample staffing? Plenty of stimulating material? Balance between structured and free time? (Studies have found that children in highly structured programs are more likely to be disciplined and show less stress.) Caregivers who have degrees in early childhood education? (Studies have found that education is linked to better care.)

Compiled from Detroit News staff and wire reports. Submit items to What's New, The Detroit News, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226.

Teen sentenced to jail for marijuana, gun possession

Friday, July 01, 2005

THE SAGINAW NEWS

A former Heritage High School student who had a gun and marijuana on the campus Oct. 8 and had planned to sell the drugs to get money for homecoming activities is serving six months in jail.

Darrel D. Young, 18, who lists his address in court records as P.O. Box 5864, also will serve five years on probation and three months of electronic monitoring for possessing a weapon in a school zone and delivering marijuana to the school, 3465 N. Center in Saginaw Township. Young pleaded guilty and prosecutors dismissed a charge of possessing a firearm while committing a felony.

Saginaw County Circuit Judge Lynda L. Heathscott also ordered Young to pay \$780 in fees and fines.

Authorities jailed Young after police found him with a .25-caliber handgun and five small bags of marijuana, police said. The teen told investigators that he intended to sell the drugs for money but was caught. He did not say who his customers were.

School board members expelled Young in November.

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IN BRIEF

Friday, July 01, 2005

Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity invites its volunteers, donors and their families to an appreciation picnic Thursday. The picnic takes place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Loomis Park pavilion near the corner of Ganson and Edgewood streets. Besides food, there will be entertainment and face painting. Reservations are appreciated in order to prepare the food. Call 784-6620 or e-mail jacksonhabitat@acd.net or cindy.barnes@acd.net with your name and number of people.

Families, individuals needed to house teens %bodybegin% Lutheran Social Services of Michigan is looking for families and individuals who would like to provide a home for teens in the Independent Living Program. The host home will provide the youth with a bedroom, a positive attitude and mentorship. The teenager is responsible for paying monthly rent, attending school and/or being employed. If interested, call (800) 765-0541 or 789-6444 or e-mail cnich@lssm.org.

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LIVONIA

Elks Lodge helps homeless veterans

The Livonia Elks Lodge donated \$3,170 to the Michigan Veterans Association, to serve Detroit's homeless veterans. The organization raised funds by selling raffle tickets through May to lodges around the state, said John Kuptz, former president of the Livonia Elks.

Judge to decide if Save A Child gets tax returns

FLINT TOWNSHIP

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION
Friday, July 01, 2005

By Ron Fonger rfonger@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6317

FLINT TWP. - The man who state regulators say used money raised for a teen suicide hot line to pay for his taxes, a vacation and utility bills is making legal moves designed to show a judge that he wasn't overpaid.

Documents filed in Ingham County Circuit Court by Save A Child and former director Bernhardt "Bud" Christenson claim attorneys need the tax returns of similar-sized nonprofits in the state to show Christenson's salary and benefits weren't out of line.

The state claims Christenson paid himself more than \$321,000 total over the past three fiscal years he ran Save A Child and arranged for companies he controlled to do business with the nonprofit organization, including one that disposed of donated vehicles and another that leased the charity its office space.

The attorney general's investigation came after a series of Flint Journal stories detailed Christenson's spending and oversight of the charity.

Christenson's attorney, Timothy H. Knecht, said in a court filing last week that "one method of judging the amount of compensation to be paid to an officer or executive of a charitable foundation is to compare it with compensation paid to officers and executives of charitable foundations or organizations of similar sizes."

The Flint Journal could not reach Knecht for further comment, and Save A Child offices have been closed since last year after the attorney general won a court order to force Christenson to stop fundraising.

Save A Child was founded in 1997 by Christenson after his nephew committed suicide. The foundation started a suicide hot line and raised millions of dollars in donations through aggressive telemarketing and countertop coin canisters at retail businesses.

By the time its last tax returns were filed, Save A Child was spending less than 12 percent of its donations on its charitable mission.

Allison Pierce, director of communication for Attorney General Mike Cox, would not comment on the recent filings. But in an affidavit, Marion Y. Gorton, administrator of the attorney general's Charitable Trust Section, said Christenson's request of tax returns of other charities would be "tremendously time consuming and severely strain" the office.

The state would be forced to review records for 26,274 organizations statewide to meet Christenson's request, the affidavit said.

Charities set to sign terror forms

Friday, July 01, 2005

By Ted Roelofs The Grand Rapids Press

WEST MICHIGAN -- With \$8 million at risk, West Michigan charities appear ready to swallow hard -- and sign forms pledging they do not support terrorism.

Heart of West Michigan United Way affirmed its intent to require 60 nonprofit agencies to complete questionnaires certifying in a seven-point check list they do not support terrorists or terrorist organizations. Those who do not sign the form will have funds cut off by Aug. 15, United Way President Robert Haight said.

"It's a real ethical dilemma for me," said Mary Alice Williams, president of Arbor Circle Corp., which receives about \$600,000 from United Way for its work supporting children and families. "I suspect, like other United Way organizations, we are going to have to sign," she said. "But we are going to do so under duress."

At Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan Inc., president John Arnold said: "We went ahead and signed it. We've got other fish to fry."

The food charity received about \$23,000 from United Way this year, in addition to \$80,000 in direct contributions processed by United Way.

But Arnold called the requirement "duplicative. We don't knowingly start forest fires. We don't knowingly have our trucks run down people on the road. How many lists of that sort are people going to want us to sign?"

Michael Reagan, president of Project Rehab in Grand Rapids, doesn't see that his substance abuse treatment agency has much choice.

It receives about \$500,000 from United Way, an amount he called "substantial."

To turn down the funds, he said, "we would have to lay off staff. It would really hurt those who are most vulnerable in our community."

Still, Reagan called the form "redundant to commitments we already have."

To date, 34 of United Way's 60 primary charities have complied with the requirements, according to a message Haight e-mailed this week to those agencies. Noting the policy is handed down by United Way of America's general counsel, Haight maintained it is the best way for United Way to protect itself.

Without that protection, Haight said, United Way could have its assets frozen if a charity it funds was found to have ties to terrorism.

"We're trying to look at it from a risk management aspect," Haight said.

In addition to its primary charities, Haight said another 4,000 charities designated by individual donors will be notified they must sign pledge forms by Sept. 1 or face the same sanction.

Individual donors sent about \$3.5 million to those agencies in the past year, he said.

Following the lead of United Way of America, the directive is being carried out by local United Way agencies nationwide. They include Greater Ottawa County United Way, where 37 of 38 partner agencies have returned the signed forms.

Minn. Government Shuts Down; 9,000 Jobless

By BRIAN BAKST, Associated Press Writer 1 hour, 18 minutes ago
July 1, 2005

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Minnesota's government shut down Friday for the first time in state history after lawmakers failed to pass a temporary spending plan and left 9,000 employees jobless and highway rest stops unattended for the July Fourth weekend.

The shutdown came at midnight after lawmakers failed late Thursday to pass a temporary spending plan to keep the government up and running. The Senate adjourned 20 minutes after Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty said he hoped the two sides could agree on a stopgap measure to keep the state's doors open for 10 more days.

"I'd like to say I'm sorry to the people of Minnesota," said Republican state Rep. Rod Hamilton of Mountain Lake. "This is disgusting."

Many states often miss their deadline for enacting new budgets. But Minnesota, unlike other states, has no law that automatically extends spending past the end of its fiscal year if a new budget is not approved.

Earlier Thursday, the Senate passed a temporary measure with no time limit, which the governor and Republican leaders in the House said they would not accept.

Most Republicans opposed the bill, saying it would create incentive to drag the budget debate deeper into the summer.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum, the Legislature's leading Republican, indicated he would not allow a House vote on the stopgap bill unless legislative leaders first reached a tentative deal on the full budget.

"The Senate wanted to shut down government from the beginning," Sviggum said.

The governor said Democrats wanted a government shutdown to embarrass him in the run-up to his 2006 re-election campaign.

"The Democrats turned and left tonight when Minnesota needed them most," Pawlenty said at a late-evening news conference.

Dean Johnson, leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate, said the sides had whittled the gap to less than \$200 million in a two-year, \$30 billion budget. But with the new fiscal year looming Friday, lawmakers remained deadlocked over issues including school funding and health care for the poor.

Eliot Seide, who heads the state's biggest employee union, lashed out at state leaders. He said it will be state workers — not lawmakers or the governor — who will have to pay the price for their failure to pass a budget.

"The services that they provide, the jobs that they do, the families that they care for ... , all in jeopardy because chicken was played in the Legislature by the governor of this state and the Legislature of this state," he said.

Minnesota had never before had to suspend services because of a budget dispute. The last state government shutdown was in Tennessee in 2002.

A judge earlier this month ordered Minnesota to protect essential services relating to health, safety and property — including state police patrols, nursing homes and food inspections.

Services that were closed included highway rest areas and the issuing of new driver's licenses. But the most significant pain would be felt by the roughly 9,000 employees who were locked out without some deal or stopgap spending plan.

Lawmakers hurried through a compromise bill to keep state parks from closing, eliminating the risk the parks would be unavailable during the Fourth of July weekend. The governor signed it and ordered park employees to report to work Friday.

Associated Press Writer Martiga Lohn contributed to this report.